

RADIO STAMPS
by
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Prepared for the "DX Partyline" Program of
Radio Station HCJB, "The Voice of the Andes",
Quito, Ecuador

Program 9

Introduction

Hello again and welcome to another edition of "Radio Stamps". You're tuned to the monthly program, heard around the world on shortwave, that's all about the fun of collecting stamps on the topic of radio. This program combines the fun of listening to international radio and collecting stamps about radio. Collecting radio stamps is another great way to enjoy the radio hobby.

Regular features on this program include descriptions of stamps to collect, and discussions of radio subjects on stamps. I also have contests to win radio stamps.

I hope you'll join me each month, here on HCJB. I also hope you'll write to me with your comments and news for the program. I'll give you my mailing address here in Almonte at the end of this feature.

Radio Listening on Stamps

Last month the subject was radios that are featured on stamps. The examples I gave were a 1920 tube receiver, a solid state amateur radio transceiver, and a 1980s ghetto blaster. On earlier programs the subjects included radio stations on stamps, amateur radio or hams stamps, and radio programs and morse code on stamps. This is program number 9 and the subject today is radio listening on stamps.

Special Edition of Radio Stamps

Today's program is quite an unusual edition for me. Although I'm recording it as I usually do, here in Almonte, sitting in front of my radio, I'm joined today by a television crew. With me this morning at the desk is Arlene Smith of channel 22, from Maclean-Hunter Cable TV in Ottawa. Ottawa is the capital city of Canada and is located about 50 km east of Almonte. The national capital region has one of the highest concentrations of cable subscribers in Canada, and Maclean-Hunter Cable TV is one of the two largest cable companies in the area. The TV camera is on right now and this edition of "Radio Stamps" is being filmed for a television show about listening to shortwave radio.

The idea for the television show came from a January story in our weekly newspaper, the Almonte Gazette. That story was about the "Radio Stamps" show on shortwave, and the letter I received from former Almonte resident, Pete Keon, now living in California. I mentioned Pete's letter on program 7. Pete wrote to say that he heard the "Radio Stamps" show in December the very first time he used his new shortwave radio. From his home in the United States, he was amazed to pick up HCJB all the way from Quito in Ecuador, and then discover he was listening to a Canadian feature that was actually produced right here in his home town of Almonte

Shortwave Listening

Millions of people each day listen to radio for entertainment and education, or as a source of news from close to home and around the world. Here in Canada, most people aren't aware how easy it is to tune in directly to international radio stations broadcasting on shortwave from around the world.

As anyone listening to this program on shortwave knows, the whole world is at your fingertips by way of shortwave listening. As an armchair traveller, or world explorer, listening to shortwave can transport you across time zones, oceans and continents with the twist of a dial. You can drop in on Stockholm, Moscow or London. You can tune to Quito in South America on your way to Beijing or Tokyo. In the morning, while I have breakfast, I like to tune to the evening program of Radio Australia.

Radio Listening on Stamps

Radio listening is also one of the subjects you can collect on postage stamps. At least 46 stamps, from 34 different countries, have been issued around the globe that show radio listeners. These stamps would be great additions to your collection, especially if you combined them with stamps showing radio stations and program announcers. I have three examples you can look for.

The situation in the Persian Gulf has been on all our minds lately. Many soldiers in the region listen to radio to keep in touch with home. There are even special programs, like those from the British Forces Broadcasting Service, that are broadcast on shortwave to the troops in the region. Soldiers in other wars listened to radio too. On September 1st, 1942, Hungary issued a semi-postal stamp that shows two soldiers, hands cupped to their ears, listening intently to a radio broadcast. The Scott catalogue number is B, as in Baker, 146.

On December 4, 1968, St. Helena issued a colourful postage stamp that shows children, in a classroom, listening to a school broadcast. The same design was used on February 15, 1971. The Scott catalogue numbers for these are 215 and 249. For the 100th anniversary of Marconi's birth, Laos issued two postage stamps on

August 28, 1974. They show a couple, sitting beneath a tree, listening to a multi-band portable radio. The Scott catalogue numbers are 251 and 252. These are just a few examples to get you started.

To close today's program, I'd like to ask Arlene Smith to announce the two international winners for the "Radio Stamps" T-shirt contest. This contest, announced on program 7, was to spell the morse code messages on the two New Zealand stamps issued in 1953. The correct answer is "New Zealand" and "health". Both words are hidden away in the borders of these unique stamps. The prizes today are two T-shirts with a large reproduction of the amateur radio stamp issued by the United States in 1964, Scott catalogue number 1260. This is the only T-shirt in the world that I know of that has a radio stamp on it. A special thanks to Paul Washa of Mound, Montana, for his kind donation of these prizes.

Hello to shortwave listeners around the world. This is Arlene Smith from channel 22, cable TV in Ottawa, Canada. The winners today, on the "Radio Stamps" program from HCJB in Ecuador, are Bjorn Fransson, from the Island of Gotland in Sweden, and Bill Farmer, from Edgewater in West Australia. Congratulations to Bjorn and Bill! Your T-shirts are being mailed today from Almonte.

That's all for this program. As promised here's Neil's mailing address. He would be pleased to receive your comments and your news for the "Radio Stamps" program: Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, KOA 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, as Neil says, best wishes for good listening and collecting.